

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2-21 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is canceled, and claims 10-21 are newly added. No new matter is added.

The Office action rejects claims 2 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gesellschaft (GB 476,836) and Olwert (EP 0,429,256). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of claim 2, as amended.

The combination of Gesellschaft and Olwert fails to teach a leadthrough conductor that includes a plurality of sections, including a section that is effectively transverse to the longitudinal axis of the discharge lamp, as claimed in claim 2, upon which claims 3-9 depend.

Conventional discharge vessels generally employ straight leadthrough conductors that lie along the longitudinal axis of the vessel, and employ shaped elements in the base element, or intermediate connectors, or both, to couple these axial conductors to current supply conductors in the base.

Gesellschaft teaches axial leadthrough conductors extending from the discharge vessel, with additional conductors to couple both leadthrough conductors to the current supply conductors in the base. Olwert teaches an incandescent bulb with axial conductors, and shaped elements in the base to connect both leadthrough conductors to the current supply conductors in the base.

As taught by the applicants, these conventional techniques for manufacturing a lamp are somewhat complicated, and accordingly, subject to production faults. The applicants' use of a leadthrough conductor that is formed so as to facilitate direct welding to the current supply conductors mounted in the base provides for a simple and reliable production technique. And, by including a plurality of bends in the formed leadthrough conductor, greater tolerances are permitted, particularly in a preferred embodiment that includes multiple U-bends.

Because the combination of Gesellschaft and Olwert fails to teach a leadthrough conductor that includes a plurality of sections, the applicants respectfully maintain that claims 2 and 8-9 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gesellschaft and Olwert, and respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Robert M. McDermott/
Robert M. McDermott, Esq.
Reg. 41,508
804-493-0707

Please direct all correspondence to:
Corporate Counsel
PHILIPS IP&S
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001